AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Original) A propshaft assembly comprising:

an insert member having a front end and a rear end;

said front end having a first slot formed therethrough; and

said second end having a second slot formed therethrough, wherein said first slot is configured to at least partially overlap said second slot.

2. (Original) The assembly of Claim 1, wherein a gap distance between said first slot and said second slot is less than half of a circumference of said insert member.

3. (Original) The assembly of Claim 2, wherein an insert member length is about twenty times said gap distance.

4. (Currently amended) The assembly of Claim 1, wherein said first slot extends axially a first distance and said second slot extends axially a second distance, wherein said first distance and said second distance [[is]] are about equal [[and]], said first and second distances being less than a length of said insert member.

5. (Currently amended) The assembly of Claim 4, wherein said first distance and said second distance are each about five-eighths of said length of said insert member.

6. (Currently amended) A propshaft assembly comprising:

a shaft structure having a hollow cavity; and

an insert member disposed within the hollow cavity and engaging the shaft structure; said insert member having a first slot extending axially a first distance from a

front end and a second slot extending axially a second distance from a rear end, wherein said first slot is circumferentially spaced apart ~~radially~~ from said second slot, said insert member including a circumferentially extending bridging member positioned between said first and second slots.

7. (Original) The propshaft assembly of Claim 6, wherein said insert member is fit into the shaft structure with an interference fit.

8. (Original) The assembly of Claim 6, wherein a gap distance between said first slot and said second slot is less than half of a circumference of said insert member.

9. (Original) The assembly of Claim 8, wherein a length of said insert member is about twenty times said gap distance.

10. (Currently amended) The assembly of Claim 6, wherein said first distance and said second distance [[is]] are each less than said length of said insert member.

11. (Original) The assembly of Claim 10, wherein said first distance is about equal to said second distance.

12. (Currently amended) The assembly of Claim 11, wherein said first distance and said second distance are each about five-eighths of said length of said insert member.

13. (Currently amended) A propshaft assembly comprising:

a shaft structure having a hollow cavity; and

an insert member configured to be inserted into said hollow cavity and having [[a]] an overlapping staggered slot configuration.

14. (Original) A method of constructing a propshaft insert for use in a propshaft assembly comprising;

providing a propshaft with a hollow cavity;

providing a propshaft insert having a circular cross-section, a front end and a rear end;

forming a first slot a first distance from said front end; and

forming a second slot a second distance from said second end, wherein said first slot it spaced apart radially from said second slot by a gap dimension.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein said first slot distance and said second slot distance are five-eighths of a length of said propshaft insert.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein said gap dimension is a distance.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 16, wherein a length of said propshaft insert is twenty times said distance.